

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/790,181
Response filed March 31, 2008
Reply to OA dated December 31, 2007

REMARKS:

Claims 45-51 are currently pending. Claims 45, 47, and 49 have been amended herein. Claims 50 and 51 have been newly added herein. Claims 1-44 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that claim 49 sets forth allowable subject matter.

A. Claim 49:

The Examiner has indicated that claim 49 sets forth allowable subject matter. Also, the Examiner has objected to claim 49 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and has noted that claim 49 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 49 has been amended herein in a manner intended to place claim 49 in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection to claim 49 should be withdrawn.

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B. Claims 45 and 47:

- * The Examiner has rejected claims 45 and 47 under the **first** paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement.
- * The Examiner has rejected claims 45 and 47 under the **second** paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections of claims 45 and 47, for the following reasons.

Regarding claims 45 and 47, the Examiner has stated that it is unclear what the “base of the bearing member” represents.

The specification (page 5) and Figure 20 have been amended herein to include the reference numeral 291C.

In the specification of the subject application, “base of the bearing member 291A” is discussed (please see pages 4 and 5). Figure 20 shows bearing member 291A and base 291C. Base 291C is the base of the bearing member 291A.

The specification states the following: "Thus, it is possible to prevent gas leakage between the cover and the support member by carrying out sufficient sealing with the inner peripheral end surface of the cover without forming any sealing surfaces on a base of the bearing" (page 105).

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections of claims 45 and 47 should be withdrawn.

C. Claims 46 and 48:

- * The Examiner has rejected claims 46 and 48 under the **first** paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement.
- * The Examiner has rejected claims 46 and 48 under the **second** paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections of claims 46 and 48, for the following reasons.

It is submitted that the Examiner has not provided specific reasons explaining these rejections of claims 46 and 48. For example, the Examiner has not explained which features of claims 46 and

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48 are alleged to fail to comply with the written description requirement. Also, the Examiner has not explained which features of claims 46 and 48 are alleged to be indefinite.

The Examiner has not yet explained any reasons for these rejections. Applicants do not yet understand why the Examiner has rejected claims 46 and 48. Thus, it is not possible for Applicants to respond to these rejections.

It is submitted that the rejections of claims 45 and 47 should be withdrawn, for reasons including those stated on pages 10-11 *supra*. Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections of claims 46 and 48 should be withdrawn, by virtue of their dependency.

D. The Examiner has rejected claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over WO 01/73293 (Ebara '293) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,533,064 (Kim '064) and U.S. Patent No. 5,642,991 (Singleterry '991):

Claims 8-13 have been canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter. Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claims 8-13 is moot and should be withdrawn.

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E. The Examiner has rejected claims 29-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over WO 01/73293 (Ebara '293) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,393,206 (Roth '206):

Claim 29-33 have been canceled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter. Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claims 29-33 is moot and should be withdrawn.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due now or in the future with respect to this application, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Replacement Sheet of Drawings (FIG. 20)